

## METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DETECTING THE VALIDITY OF AND RECOVERING CONFIGURATION DATA

### Abstract

5       Methods are provided for detecting the validity of configuration data and  
recovering configuration data in a computer system. A layout of present configuration  
data is detected in the computer system. The present configuration data is stored in a  
memory device which may be a non-volatile random access memory ("NVRAM")  
device. Next, a layout of updated configuration data for the computer system is detected.  
10   The updated configuration data is stored within program code, such as a BIOS, which  
includes an updated configuration for the computer system. Next, the layout of the  
present configuration data is compared to the layout of the updated configuration data in  
the computer system. If the layout of the present configuration data matches the layout of  
the updated configuration data, then it is determined that the present configuration data is  
15   valid configuration data for the computer system. If the layout of the present  
configuration data does not match the layout of the updated configuration data, then it is  
determined that the present configuration data is invalid configuration data and the  
present configuration data is either reset to a default state or recovered into an updated  
memory location in the NVRAM.

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